

Higher Education Research Monograph Series: Industrial Training Practices in Malaysian Undergraduate Engineering Programme

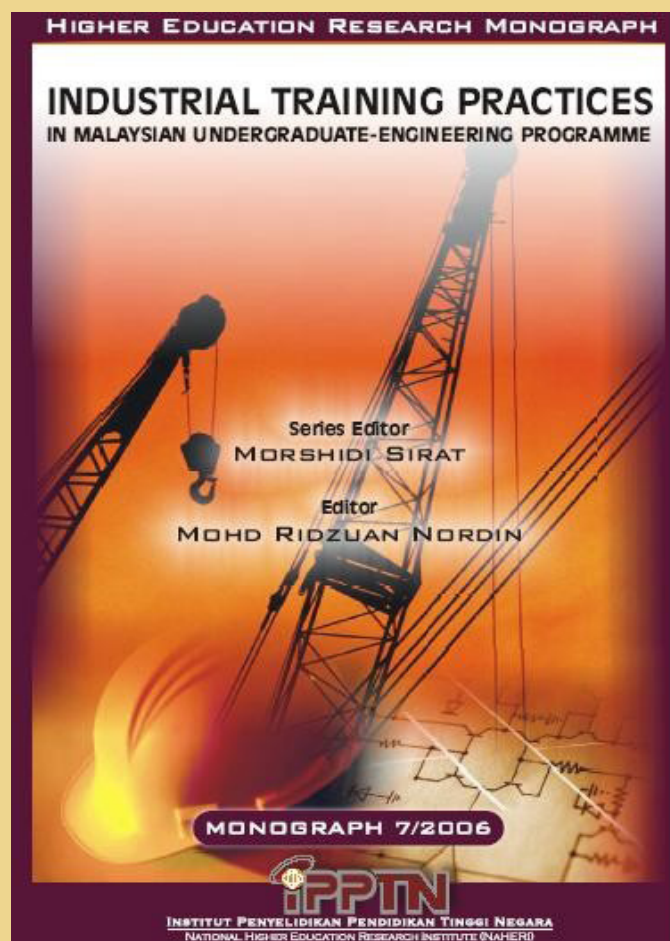
The primary objective of this project is to explore approaches to enhance the effectiveness of industrial training conducted by institutions of higher education in Malaysia. Industrial training is viewed as an important strategy to expose students to real work life and to equip them with the necessary skills so that they would be job ready when they graduate.

Malaysian institutions of higher education adopt diverse approaches for industrial training programme. This is reflected in the way of which the programme is conducted, academically and administratively. In the case of the engineering programme there is a university that makes industrial training an elective component of the programme. On the other hand there is also a university that makes it a compulsory component with industrial training carrying 16 credit hours and students' performance in the training contributing towards CGPA computation.

Overall, the organisations surveyed are willing to continue accepting students on industrial training because of the benefit of such programme to students and to organisations. Organisations provide allowance to the majority of respondents in this study indicating their support to the industrial training programme. However several areas needing improvement have been identified. These include clearer industrial training guidelines, improved coordination between institutions and organizations and better preparation of students for industrial training.

Eventhough the institutional respondents indicated that their institutions have done their best in managing the industrial training programme, two observations pointed that the efforts may have been within the constraints faced by the administrations of industrial training. These constraints are the financial allocations and attentions given by the management of the university to industrial training programme.

Based on the findings of this study, recommendations are made for the various parties including government, organisations, institutions of higher education and students. The government is recommended to view industrial training as a strategic agenda in the development of human resource of the nation, to further formulate policy and create incentive that would encourage organizations to provide industrial



training opportunities for students.

The organizations are recommended to enhance their commitment to train the country's human resource through active involvement in industrial training and to provide systematic and relevant training to students inclusive of assigning suitable officers to supervise students on industrial training.

The institutions of higher education are recommended to coordinate each other's efforts pertaining to industrial training and adopt the best practice, to develop databases and web-based services that facilitate smooth management of industrial training by the institution. The institutions are also recommended to provide appropriate allocations to finance industrial training related activities especially the assessment related activities and to signify the strategic importance of industrial training in relation to the institution's overall mission and finally to continuously solicit feedback and input from the industry to enhance the effectiveness of industrial training and the quality of students and academic programmes.

Sharing of information and adopting synergistic approaches towards managing industrial training are required for the benefit of the nation. Best practices should be found and adopted system wide. Novel and brave measures should be introduced to reflect the strategic significance of industrial training.

Forthcoming in this series:
Monograph 8: Shortcut Behaviour among Students at Malaysian Higher Education Institutions.
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